

Docking Gives Scary Moment

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1969

Luna 15 Crashes on Moon

Apollo Heads Safely Earthward To World-Wide Sigh of Relief

By VICTOR K. McELHENY
Staff Writer

HOUSTON—The astronauts of Apollo 11, having left behind a symbolic olive branch on the lunar Sea of Tranquility, are on their way home to the shining Earth.

At 12:57 a.m. today, a 2-minute, 29-second firing of Apollo 11's on-board service rocket blasted Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Edwin Aldrin free of the grip of the Moon's gravity and sent them on a course for splashdown in the Pacific at 12:51 p.m. Thursday.

The first words from the Command Module after coming around the Moon and resuming radio contact

were: "Open the LRL door, we're coming home." The LRL is a quarantine quarters—the Lunar Receiving Laboratory—where the astronauts will remain for a time in Houston.

DOCKING

'All Hell Broke Loose'

By DONALD WHITE
Staff Writer

For a few breath-stopping moments at 5:30 p.m. yesterday, during the critical maneuver that saw Eagle lock once more with Columbia, America's homeward-bound astronauts were in trouble.

It was so bad that it prompted Michael Collins, guiding the command ship, to say that "all hell broke loose."

For millions in the United States, still transfixed by TV as they watched a simulation and listened to actual transmissions, docking turned out to be a more chilling operation than anything that had gone before.

It was a moment with grim overtones of irony. Danger reared up in a procedure which various members of the U.S. space team have accomplished smoothly in reality several times before.

Here's the way the astronauts themselves described the intricate space juggling that eventually—some three minutes behind schedule—mated Eagle and Columbia after 27 hours and 48 minutes apart:

Collins: "That was a funny one . . . You know I didn't feel us touch. And I thought things were pretty steady. I went to retrack there and that's when all hell broke loose."

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APOLLO Page 8

Luna Finally Hits Moon But Dies In 4 Minutes

United Press International

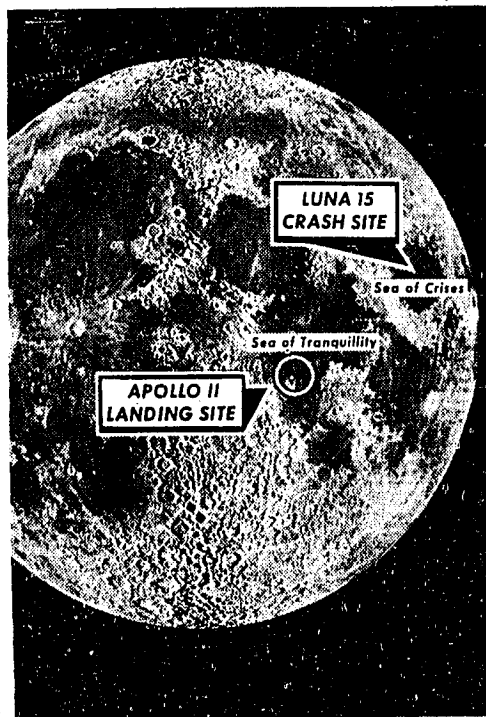
MOSCOW — The Russian Luna 15 satellite yesterday joined America's Apollo 11 astronauts on the moon briefly but went dead after four minutes on the lunar surface, the Soviet Union announced this morning.

A dispatch by the Soviet news agency Tass said: "At 18 hours 47 minutes (11:47 a.m. EDT) a retrorocket was switched on and the station left the orbit and reached the moon's surface in the preset area.

"The work with the station Luna 15 ended at 18 hours 51 minutes (11:51 a.m. EDT)."

The brief period of time between firing of the retrorockets and the end of the mission indicated a high speed crash landing. Earlier, Britain's Jodrell Bank reported there were signs that Luna 15 had hit the moon at a speed of about 300 miles per hour.

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MOON AND ITS VISITORS
... about 500 miles apart. (AP)

ASTRONAUTS ARMSTRONG AND ALDRIN BLAST OFF FROM THE MOON—Artist's drawing.

U.S. Eases Two Curbs On Tourism to Red China

By DARIUS S. JHABVALA
Staff Writer

NEW YORK—The United States yesterday adopted new administrative measures that are intended to eventually facilitate commercial and cultural relations with Communist China.

The State Department announced the easing of travel ban to the mainland by certain U.S. citizens and of restrictions against the purchase of goods manufactured there.

The announcement, coming on the eve of President Nixon's tour of five Asian countries and Romania where the main topic will be Washington's policies towards Peking, is a departure from the stance adopted since the Communist regime came to power in 1949.

But a further shift seeking to establish political ties is not expected until the Maoist government reciprocates with re-

laxations of its own, and the present measures depend on Peking's willingness to accept them.

It is the general expectation here that the Peking regime, even if it does not respond with a blast at the American action, will continue to refuse entry to persons with American passports. Since the beginning of Mao Tse-tung's cultural revolution in 1966 no American passport has been accepted by China, officials said, and only a handful of special cases before that.

State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey said that effective tomorrow American tourists and residents abroad could purchase up to \$100 worth of Red Chinese goods and bring them into the United States without prior permission from American authorities. Hitherto a complete embargo has been in force and a certificate of origin was required for even tourists' imports.

RED CHINA Page 2

LIFTOFF

'Right Down Route One'

By ROBERT J. ANGLIN
Staff Writer

HOUSTON—"I feel like 500 million people around the world are helping push Eagle off the Moon and back into orbit."

These are the words of NASA flight operations director Chris Kraft just as the spacecraft was nearing the velocity needed to put Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin back into space.

They are a measure of the anxiety which was felt by NASA people during the critical ascent stage from the Moon.

The astronauts had already taken that "giant leap for mankind." It was up to the scientists and engineers who put them there to get them off.

The facts were plain. It was do or die. If Eagle did not achieve orbit there would be no hope of rendezvousing with Michael Collins orbiting above them in Columbia.

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Cloudy, 70s In Hub Today

There will be considerable cloudiness in the Boston area through tomorrow. High temperature today will be in the 70's. Low tonight will be in the 60's. Winds will be gentle and easterly. Probability of rain today and tonight is 20 percent.

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KENNEDY Page 12

Complaint Sought

Kennedy Hearing Monday

By RICHARD A. POWERS
and ALAN LUPO
Staff Writers

EDGARTOWN—Police yesterday asked the local district attorney's office for help in clearing up the mysteries that surround the auto accident in which Sen. Edward M. Kennedy was shaken up and a passenger drowned.

Chief Dominick J. Arena said George Killen, a State Police lieutenant assigned to Dukes County Dist. Atty. Edmund Dinis' office, will try to

learn more about a party attended by Kennedy and the victim shortly before the accident.

Arena sought a complaint charging Kennedy with leaving the scene of the accident.

Richard McCarron, an attorney representing the senator, requested a hearing, and one was set for next Monday in Edgartown District Court.

The purpose of the hearing is to determine whether the complaint should be issued.



CHIEF DOMINICK ARENA
... not finished